

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8 Canceled

9. (previously presented) A gas lance formed of a fire proof material, said lance having a truncated cone-shape and including:
 an entry surface, and exit surface, and channels extending therebetween;
 the channels having a slit-shaped, transverse cross-section; the channels having an entry slit disposed in entry surface and an exit slit disposed in the exit surface; the slit-shaped channel transverse cross sections are oriented approximately radially from a central longitudinal axis of the lance, projections of the exit slits onto the entry surface are offset relative to the entry slits.

10. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein the projections of the exit slits onto the entry surface are offset relative to the axis of the lance with a uniform direction of rotation to the entry slits.

11. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein the projections of the entry slits onto the entry surface are offset parallel to the entry slits.

12. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein the exit slits extend radially outwardly in a star-shaped pattern.

13. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein the exit slits are of different lengths in transverse cross section.

14. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 13, wherein the lengths of the channels decrease from the entry slit to the exit slit.

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15. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein each one of the exit slits have a constant length in transverse cross section from the entry slit to the exit slit.

16. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein the width of the channels is between 0.1 mm and 0.5mm.

17. (previously presented) The gas lance of claim 9, wherein the channels are spaced apart from the peripheral surface of the truncated cone-shape.